

Semi-structured interview guide for the focused group discussion to assess the facilitators and the perceived barriers on retrieving health related information online among the older persons aged 60 years and living in Colombo District, Sri Lanka

1. Greeting the participants

Good morning/ afternoon everyone. Thank you very much for participating this focused-group discussion

2. Introduction of the Principal Investigator/ Moderator and the assistants

I am Dr. Bhumini Karunarathna, a Medical Officer attached to the Ministry of Health, Colombo. And there are two other doctors, Dr. Gayan and Dr. Dakshitha who will be assisting me to conduct this discussion today

3. Brief explanation of the study objectives and the reason to conduct the study

This research basically assesses your interaction with electronic health materials and your capability to retrieve online health information successfully and utilize that knowledge to improve your health.

This discussion will be conducted to get a comprehensive idea on the facilitators and the barriers you have in retrieving health information via online sources.

4. Explanation on the procedure of the FGD

- The discussion will remain confidential, and an identification number will be given to you to differentiate the participants. Please tell the number and start whenever you share your ideas during the discussion.
- Personal identification details such as name and contact details will not be required
- The discussion will be audio recorded to facilitate remembering the facts discussed
- The questions will only give you a guide and you can share your thoughts and experiences freely
- The discussion will last for around 60-90 minutes

5. Demographic questions

- i. Age of the participant (in completed years for the last birthday) years
- ii. Sex

Male	
Female	

iii. Highest level of education

No formal education	
Grade 1-5	
Grade 6-10	
Ordinary level completed	
Advanced level completed	
Vocational training/ Diploma	
University degree or above	

iv. Monthly family income (in Sri Lankan rupees)

No income	
<25000	
25001-50000	
50001-75000	
75001-100000	
>100000	

v. Frequency of online health information usage

Everyday	
Every other day	
Twice a week	
Once a week	
Once in two weeks	
Once a month	
Other (Please specify)	

6. Guiding questions for the discussion

- i. What do you understand by the word online health information?
- ii. What do you think about online health information?
- iii. Can you describe any occasions you retrieve health information online?
- iv. What are the facilitating and motivating factors for you to retrieve health information via online sources?

- v. What are the barriers/ discouraging factors that prevent you from retrieving online health information?
- vi. How do you think that online health information sources and E-Health materials should be improved?
- vii. Is there anything else you need to add?

7. Thanking the participants

Thank you very much everyone for participating this discussion and sharing your valuable ideas.